

TEACHING ABOUT CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

Controversial issues arising from classroom situations and subject matter may be discussed and explored in the classrooms throughout the District.

Controversial issues provide stimulation to learning by stirring intellectual excitement and are thus an integral part of the normal classroom environment. Free inquiry in a democratic society requires that controversial issues arising in the normal classroom situation be handled as a regular aspect of instruction and learning in such a way as to not inhibit the dignity, the personality or the intellectuality of either the teacher or the students.

Controversial issues with respect to instruction in the public schools appear to present, in essence, a two-fold problem; first, the problem of academic freedom for both the teacher and the student; and second, the problem of technique or method employed in handling controversial issues in the classroom. For the best interests of the individual, the communities and the larger society, provision must be made so that teachers and students alike are free to exchange and develop the ideas. The Superintendent shall see that the necessary guidelines are established.